

U.S. Department of Labor Office of Youth Opportunities (OYO) Youth Opportunity Grants (YOG) Technical Assistance Update

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The U.S. Department of Labor Office of Youth Services/Office of Youth Opportunities (OYO) brings you the Youth Opportunity Grant (YOG) Technical Assistance Update. On a bi-weekly basis, the update will provide important announcements and information for YOG sites, partners, and coaches.

Please let us know if these updates are useful to you and how it might be improved to better serve your needs. If you have information or items to contribute, or topics that you would like see covered, please contact Susan Rosenblum, Office of Youth Opportunities, at srosenblum@doleta.gov or (202) 693-3597.

We encourage you to forward these updates to your partners, staff, and others who are working with your site.

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YOG IMPLEMENTATION

Start-Up Issues: Is your site ready to go?

One of the YOG coaches has prepared a paper, **“YOG Start-Up Issues,”** that poses a number of key questions that you might use as a “guide” or “checklist” to determine if your YO! site has developed and implemented the necessary systems for operation. The questions cover such topics as recruitment, intake, assessment, and case management. It does NOT cover facility or administrative issues. Copies of the paper are attached in the file, **“START-UP.”**

Sample MOUs?

Several YOGs are arranging for multiple partners to provide services in contrast to sites that have just one provider. Grantees have asked OYO if we can suggest concrete strategies or examples used to implement this type of collaboration. Rather than a “contract,” YOGs may want to consider Memorandums of Agreement or Understanding (MOUs/MOAs) as a vehicle to develop and guide these activities.

Has anyone already developed such MOUs/MOAs in the process of putting together their YOG partner relationships? If you do have examples of such “MOUs,” please send or fax (202-693-3532) them as soon as possible to: Gloria Salas-Kos, US Department of Labor, Office of Youth Opportunities, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-4438, Washington, DC 20210. If you have any questions, please call Gloria at (202) 693-3596.

YOG CONTACT INFORMATION

Updated YOG Site Directory - Please see attached file, **“YOG Directory,”** for the updated list of YOG project officers, federal partners, project directors, and Workforce Investment Board (WIB) directors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October is REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP AWARENESS MONTH (RAAM) 2000

U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman has declared October 2000 as “Registered Apprenticeship Awareness Month” (RAAM) to increase awareness of and support for registered apprenticeship training in the media and among key stakeholders in the workforce development system. These include employers, labor unions, school guidance counselors, parents, students, and government officials. The

Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services (ATELS), Employment and Training Administration, U. S. Department of Labor, is planning several activities across the country to highlight how apprenticeship programs can promote the goals of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). Events include presentations about the apprenticeship system to State and local Workforce Investment Boards.

Registered Apprenticeship Awareness Month is timely. Regional and local skills shortages in such fields as construction, tool and die, carpentry and machining have sparked a renewed interest in pre-apprenticeship programs. They offer youth, especially those who are out-of-school, and not bound for college, a chance to prepare for high-wage, high-demand jobs. Apprenticeship combines paid on-the-job training with related classroom instruction to help young people learn the practical and theoretical aspects of highly skilled occupations.

YOG sites can play a role in helping youth qualify for admission to a registered apprenticeship where entrance requirements are rigorous. Participants must be at least 16 years old and demonstrate strong basic skills, especially in math, reading, and problem-solving. Grantees may want to connect with pre-apprenticeship programs operated by the local school district, community-based organizations, and other agencies, usually in cooperation with a sponsoring union and/or employer. These programs assist youth in acquiring the necessary academic and job readiness skills to qualify for admission to the registered apprenticeship. Consider assigning a YO! staff member to serve as a full-time or part-time apprenticeship coordinator. This person can help to identify unions and/or employers that offer apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship training that may be available to eligible YO! participants.

For more information about registered apprenticeship programs and activities planned for Registered Apprenticeship Awareness Month Registered, check the Internet at http://www.doleta.gov/atels_bat or contact your regional U.S. Department of Labor office.

National League of Cities (NLC) Seeks Youth Delegates for Annual Congress of Cities-December 5-9, 2000 in Boston, MA

The National League of Cities (NLC), the nation's oldest association representing cities and towns, will hold its annual convention December 5-9, 2000 in Boston, MA at the John Hynes Convention Center. Information about the event is available on-line at www.nlc.org.

More than 7,000 mayors and council members from cities across the country attend NLC's annual convention. For the third year, NLC is encouraging mayors, council members, and state league officials to bring youth, ages 15-18 to the 2000 Congress of Cities as participating delegates. NLC's goal is to promote the belief that "youth are key players in the community and should be nurtured and engaged as partners." At last year's conference in Los Angeles, more than 300 youth participated as delegates.

For more information on how youth can participate in the NLC conference, see attached document (NLCYOUTH) or contact John Kyle, NLC Institute on Youth, Education and Families, at (202) 626-3039 or email: kyle@nlc.org.